



## **MEETING MINUTES – GENERAL MEETING**

**Date:** May 1, 2012

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Nancy Sousa

**Minutes approved on:** June 5, 2012

**Interpreters:** Carol Fay and Maureen McEntee

**Cart:** Shelley Deming

**RIDE:** Jennifer Smith

**Attorney:** Sara Rapport

### **Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Travis Zellner called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:09 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

### **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- b. **In Attendance:** Marie Lynch, Amy Donnelly-Roche, Jodi Merryman, Westley Resendes, Harvey Corson, Angelo Garcia.

### **Public Comment: None**

### **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- **February 28, 2012 – approved (as amended)**
- **March 6, 2012 - approved**
- **March 20, 2012 - approved**

### **Reports**

- **Chairperson:** since the last meeting in March, RIDE has approved the Reform Plan/Sig Plan; (there were no meetings in April). Jennifer Smith will talk about the plan and funding; re: filling BOT vacancies – spoke to Jennifer, Andrea and the Commissioner – it seems that the Board of Regents chair has his own agenda – we are not the only ones waiting for appointments, but 6 months is too long; concerned that people may give up and back out; It is vitally important for

the BOR to make these appointments. I will send another email to all and will include the chair of BOR without hesitation.

**Jennifer Smith:** nothing to report on that at this time.

- **Interim Administration Reports:**

- **Mary Pendergast:** we have Title 1 school-wide status; we don't have to identify students anymore – all students are included. The line is very clear that we meet the criteria for school-wide Title 1 status. Jennifer is going to explain the process about the reform plan and funding; we are moving forward with scheduling activities outlined in Phase 1. I have placed several policies in the packet to consider for 1<sup>st</sup> reading at the next meeting; they come from the RIDE Association of School Committees; welcome feedback; concussion policy not included in this batch.

**Member:** regarding the policy on AIDS – are there other communicable diseases included; concerned about push back from family and staff; how updated is this policy – language of transmission of HIV?

**Ms. Pendergast:** there are other policies on blood-borne pathogens; will research further, but the guidance has not changed.

**Member:** is this a first draft?

**Ms. Pendergast:** don't know if Policy Committee could review at next meeting, then have 1<sup>st</sup> reading with full Board, then 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and public comments – approved.

**Members:** seems to be a lot for one meeting; may have to break-up this session.

**Ms. Pendergast:** my hope is to move forward; I will attach protocol to policies when presenting in the future.

**Chair:** this Friday there is a May Breakfast at the school – email the address at the bottom of the form if you would like to attend. We will have the Executive Session at the end of meeting tonight.

- **Report – Corsino Delgado:** Just want to remind all that June 6 is graduation night for our seniors; Westley Resendes has graciously accepted our invitation to be guest speaker – he is an ideal role model for our students. Re financials: presented projections to RIDE for further submission to Budget Office; we have a small surplus due to vacancies; absent these vacancies, we would have to be making some serious decisions about cuts. We had unexpected higher legal expenditures; but a mild winter, so snow budget was negligible; with the estimated expenses for the next year w/accrued payroll – there is a \$27,000 surplus. The Fee for Service shows what was billed to date - \$288,000; note that the 6 districts in litigation have been paying FFS this year.

**Chair and members:** voiced concerns about the vacancies and using education funds (expire in two years), versus FFS funds; wanted to be sure that education funds were exhausted; want Jennifer to explain funding.

**Old Business:**

- **Reform/SIG Plan/Funding**

**Ms. Smith:** Announced that she will be going over to Central Falls full time on 5/7/12; will still be working with us and the new leadership (working part-time at RIDE). RIDE is undergoing SIG monitoring by the feds at this time. We are not receiving any SIG money, getting our funding from RIDE; still required to follow through on school reform plan goals and objectives; the federal government will not be monitoring us – RIDE will monitor the funds. We have given you an overview of RIDE's comments on the reform plan; a school monitoring and accountability specialist from the Office of Transformation will meet with us; we are conditionally approved – will send letter to indicate issues that need to be addressed – Ms. Spaulding is the specialist. You will have different timeframes to work on your revisions, depending on faculty and how many can attend to the task.

**Chair:** It is exciting to have our plan approved and a decision on a new director; hopefully we can get an Assistant Principal.

**Ms. Smith:** can't put words in mouth of the new Director, leave it to her and the leadership team and they will collaborate with you. Re: questions on funding tied to revisions – yes, revisions need to be completed prior to final approval of plan in order to get funding – get it in asap. The major goals and objectives do not change; small elements of the reform plan may take months to achieve; we recognize that there are edits outside of main goals of plan, but don't be too concerned about the amendments and funds being tied together. There will be \$59,000 per year available to you; we do not have the funding source at this time; but RIDE will identify it soon; don't have the timeline or deadline to get the funds; state is doing a reconciliation.

**Members:** appreciate that it is a more stringent plan, expecting a lot from RISD; there is six weeks left of school and a projected surplus, which will be time to revise the plan. The pre-implementation phase is the most urgent; funds will be released over a period of time. Concerned with the two BOT vacancies and the appointment of the new Director – have to wait for new Director's approval as well?

**Ms. Smith:** will send message asking Commissioner and BOR to approve BOT appointments. After you meet all revisions, the Commissioner will announce the final approval. Email any questions you have to me.

**Chair:** do we have enough money to implement our summer plan? What is the amount we need?

**Corsino:** as we get closer to the end of the year, we will have to look at how we can pay for the extra expenditures.

**Ms. Pendergast:** the total amount for pre-implementation (including \$59,000) is \$71,960; there are issues around Title 1 and Title 2 requirements and if they will be allowed; the biggest expense is stipends for summer institute; we need to see where that \$30,000 would come from – looking at RTTT – with interpreters could cost \$36,000. We need the money from RIDE – which they said they would provide. We will do an analysis to see if we can move some dollars around.

**Chair:** we will send revision in a couple of weeks to get the money for summer. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, it will be a combination work session, policy review and special meeting.

**Sharon Salisbury:** to clarify, our not being awarded the SIG dollars does not impact the plan requirements; since no SIG awarded, can we list activities in revised plan as contingent upon funding?

**Ms. Pendergast:** to clarify the difference in school reform plan and SIG – SIG is more about LEA capacity to implement the plan; we don't have all those things in place, very separate things; we are committed to the school reform plan.

#### **New Business:**

- School Calendar

- **Chair:** Let's look at the school calendar proposed by Administration –

**Ms. Pendergast:** the school calendar follows similar schedule with all RI schools; want to give credit to the teachers for developing this calendar. Re questions about the last week in August (Summer Institute) not being part of school calendar – it is separate from the school year – not part of the contractual year for salaried teachers; the school year calendar tells families what the school year will look like.

**Members:** suggested that there be a separate “Event Calendar” to include Open House, BOT meetings, snow days, etc.; concerned about the July & August programs not on calendar.

**Ms. Pendergast:** re ESY, we communicate directly with the districts – we can put it on an Event Calendar.

**Chair:** **There is consensus to approve School Year Calendar** (will see Event Calendar, too).

**Adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) – to discuss  
RISD Director Vacancy  
Collective Bargaining-Teachers Contract and Local 2012 (AFT)**

- a. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(1) and (2) at 7:36 p.m. Approved unanimously

**After CBA discussion, note taker was excused – 8:20 p.m.**

- b. **MOVED Angelo Garcia AND SECONDED Westley Resendes** That the Board would return to Open Session at 7:36 p.m. Approved unanimously.
- c. **MOVED Amy Donnelly-Roche AND SECONDED Westley Resendes:** That the Board would seal the minutes of Executive Session. Approved unanimously.

Motions from Executive Session: Announced that the Board agreed to offer Nancy Heath a consultant contract valued at \$75 per hour, starting May 2, 2012 and ending on July 1, 2012.

**Adjournment**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.